United Nations A/C.1/59/PV.24

General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session

Official Records

First Committee
24th meeting
Monday, 13 June 2005, 10.45 a.m.
New York

Chairman: Mr. De Alba ..... (Mexico)

In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Rowe (Sierra Leone), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

Election of the Chairperson and the Bureau of the First Committee for the sixtieth session of the General Assembly

The Acting Chairman: I take great pleasure in calling to order, on behalf of our indefatigable Chairman, Ambassador Luis Alfonso De Alba of Mexico, who is presently participating in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, the 24th meeting of the Disarmament and International Security Committee — the First Committee — of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

This meeting has been convened to elect the Chairman and the Bureau, consisting of three Vice-Chairs and a Rapporteur, of the First Committee for the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 99 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, as amended by resolution 56/509 of 8 July 2002, and with rule 103, as well as with annex B, paragraph 9, of resolution 58/126 of 19 December 2003.

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to convey to Mr. De Alba our appreciation for his extraordinary performance and leadership in steering the work of the Committee to a successful conclusion. I also wish to say that I have no doubt that the other members of the Bureau — the other Vice-Chairs, Ms. Dziunik Aghajanian of Armenia and Mr. Alon Bar of Israel, and the Rapporteur, Mr. Mohamed Ali Saleh Alnajar of Yemen — would join me in expressing sincere thanks to Mr. De Alba for his message of commendation for the support he received from the Committee and the Bureau during the fifty-ninth session.

We shall now proceed with the electoral process, starting with the chairmanship of the First Committee. It is my privilege and honour to nominate the candidate of the Group of Asian States, Ambassador Choi Young-jin of the Republic of Korea, for the post of Chairman of the First Committee for the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

Ambassador Choi Young-jin has been a member of the Foreign Service of the Republic of Korea since 1972, representing his country with distinction throughout the world and in various capacities. He has served as Vice Foreign Minister, Chancellor of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, Deputy Minister for Policy Planning and International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Deputy Executive Director of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization, Director-General of the International Economic Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director of the International Organizations Division in Seoul and Director of the Cultural Exchanges Division, just to name a few posts. Also, in 1998 and 1999 he was Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping

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Operations at the United Nations. He is currently the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations.

Ambassador Young-jin is the recipient of the Presidential Citation, the Republic of Korea, 1998 and the Order of Service Merit, 2000. With his vast experience and impressive credentials, it is truly an honour to submit his candidature to the Committee today.

Since there are no other nominations, may I take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and established practice, the First Committee wishes to dispense with the secret ballot and to declare Ambassador Choi Young-jin of the Republic of Korea elected Chairman of the First Committee for the sixtieth session of the General Assembly by acclamation?

It was so decided.

The Acting Chairman: I should like now to proceed to the election of two Vice-Chairs and the Rapporteur of the First Committee for the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

It is my pleasure to put before the Committee the nominations for the posts of Vice-Chair of the First Committee for the Group of African States, Mr. Lofti Bouchaara of Morocco, and for the Group of Western European and Other States, Mr. Detlev Wolter of Germany. The election of the Vice-Chair for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States will be held in due course. I am also pleased to inform the Committee that Ms. Elvina Jusufaj of Albania has been nominated by the Group of Eastern European States for the post of Rapporteur.

As members know, the General Assembly has sought to improve the efficiency of its work. Thus, bearing in mind that agreement has been reached by the regional groups on the nominations of these three candidates for the posts of Vice-Chair and Rapporteur, I expect that the Committee would wish to move to elect them by acclamation.

It was so decided.

The Acting Chairman: Allow me on behalf of the Committee and on my own behalf to express our sincere congratulations to Ambassador Choi Young-jin on his election as Chairman of the First Committee and to Mr. Lofti Bouchaara and Mr. Detlev Wolter on their election as Vice-Chairs as well as to Ms. Elvina Jusufaj on her election as Rapporteur of the First Committee at the sixtieth session of the General Assembly.

I am confident that with their wealth of experience, political acumen and invaluable knowledge, the First Committee will forge ahead in its work during the sixtieth session.

As all will agree, this is a significant session which marks the beginning of a new decade. We in the First Committee shall continue to strive to play our part in the vital rationalization of the work of the Assembly. I wish to assure the Chairman and the Bureau of our unwavering dedication and determination to assist them in their important tasks. Once again, my congratulations to all of you and my best wishes for a successful sixtieth session.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.